



The Acorn

History of the SC Urban & Community Forestry Council

In the 1980s and early 90s, the American Forestry Association (now American Forests) prominently supported the National Urban Forest Council and actively promoted the development of urban forest councils in all 50 states. Don Willike, a nationally renowned attorney and American Forestry Association member, strongly and eloquently advocated for the development of state urban forestry councils.

This was manifested at the Federal level in new Federal funding for urban and community forestry, which was authorized through the 1990 Farm Bill. The new funding, in the form of grants, would be distributed through the USDA Forest Service, via state forestry agencies in all 50 states. *To qualify for this new grant money, each state was required to have an active urban forestry council.*

As a result, in December 1990 the first SC Urban Forest Conference was organized by SC Forestry Commission and USDA Forest Service. Don Willike delivered the keynote address. Immediately following the conference, about 40 people volunteered to serve as a steering committee for the formation of the **South Carolina Urban & Community Forestry Council (SCUCFC)**.

In 1992, the **SCUCFC** was formally recognized by the Internal Revenue Service and the SC Attorney General as a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit corporation, with (at that time) a 22 member Board of Directors.

Over the years, the **SCUCFC** has focused on advocating for community trees. We publish a quarterly newsletter (*The Acorn*), hold an annual urban forestry conference, and developed the **Golden Acorn** and **Heritage Tree** award programs to recognize excellence in tree advocacy.

In addition to these important tangible benefits, the SC Urban & Community Forestry Council provides

three very important statewide benefits:

- A positive relationship between the Council and the SC Forestry Commission, which enables the State Forester to identify urban forestry needs at the local level and provide direction towards the development of state programs that best satisfy those needs.
- Support for the State Forester in the promotion of the urban forestry programs through state and legislative processes.
- An extended network for the delivery of technical information.

Recently, the development of a new formula for distributing Federal grant funds has left South Carolina without sufficient funding to even offer the Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program. Because the new formula heavily favors the largest metropolitan areas, South Carolina qualifies only for base funding - a vastly reduced amount compared to the previous 15 years of the program's existence. This funding cut produces 2 stark consequences:

- The Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program that has leveraged millions of dollars of matching goods and services for the development of community tree projects in SC will cease.
- The SC Urban & Community Forestry Council must urgently seek out significant additional revenue sources to continue to exist and provide services at the current level.

Like the legendary bluesman Robert Johnson, we've come down to the crossroads. How we negotiate the path ahead will determine our success or failure. In 2007, the Board of Directors will be working very hard, under the capable guidance of Development Services International, to chart a new course in fundraising and program development; we believe the outcome of this very important project holds the key to our future. We will also need your support to continue our mission. Please remember this, and continue to give it, as you have so unselfishly over the years, whenever you can.

from the President's Corner



I recently returned from a wonderful arborist workshop in Stillwater, OK where I had the chance to meet members of the Oklahoma U&CF Council. What a dynamic group! I was impressed with their current public awareness campaign, which features the poster shown below. I think you'll agree that it gets the no-tree-topping message across in a powerful way.

This year the SC U&CF Council is starting its own awareness campaign to spread the word about the hazards of deep planting. Research from around the U.S.

has shown that planting trees with their root flares even a few inches below grade can drastically reduce their chances of survival. It only takes a few extra minutes to find the root flare and place it at the soil line at transplant—but these few minutes can literally save a tree's life.

Proper tree planting is an aspect of arboriculture where homeowners and landscapers can really make an impact. Almost all trees come from the nursery with some degree of root collar burial. But don't put all blame on the nurseries: modern nursery production practice makes it difficult to avoid some degree of root collar burial. Instead, take matters into your own hands. Excavate the root ball until you find the first major structural root of the young tree. This is the root flare—and it should be placed at (or just above) the soil line. This will give the tree's root system access to the water, air and nutrients it needs to survive.

We hope you'll enjoy our "Show Me Your Root Flare" campaign and that you'll use our promotional materials to get the word out to your friends and neighbors. We've heard that one creative tree-lover has already made their own front yard sign with the "Show me Your Root Flare" motto! Watch the website for updates and information on how you can get involved.

On another note, I'd like to say a big "thank you" to all the Council members who made our 2006 conference in Spartanburg such a success! This year, we're planning to take our educational mission on the road through a series of one-day workshops around the state. Do you have a topic you'd like to see covered? Email us at info@scurbanforestry.org. We would love to hear from you!

Best wishes for 2007 -
Christina Wells

SCUCFC Board of Directors

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The Acorn is a quarterly newsletter produced by the SCUCFC. We welcome your articles, news items, and photographs that may be of interest to our readers. Items may be sent to SCUCFC, PO Box 21707, Columbia, SC 29221 or info@scurbanforestry.org.

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Think of it as a Really Really Bad Haircut... That Could Kill You.

It's called "tree topping" and it's a tragedy. A beautiful shade tree can survive decades of storms, drought and pests, only to have its life cut short by someone who believes that topping is good for the tree. Sadly, many homeowners don't realize that topping a tree - the widespread "mowing" of any branches - permanently injures it.

Wounds from improper cutting expose the tree to decay, disease, and early death. And a topped tree is expensive to maintain. So protect your trees and save your money by hiring only professional arborists. Go online at www.okplanttrees.org for more information.

EXPERTS AGREE DON'T TOP YOUR TREE

A program originally developed by the National Community Forestry Council and Forest Resource Institute. Revised for Oklahoma by the Oklahoma Urban and Community Forestry Council. Financial assistance provided by the USDA Forest Service. All digital graphics copyright, artwork, content writing and production by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry as authorized by Secretary Terry Pritchard. Thanks for the artwork copies were printed at a cost of \$2000 to the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry as authorized by Secretary Terry Pritchard. Thanks for the artwork copies were printed at a cost of \$2000 to the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry as authorized by Secretary Terry Pritchard.

2006 Golden Acorn Awards Presentation

By: Eddie Bernard, RLA
SCU&CFC Awards Committee Chairman



The 2006 Golden Acorn awards were presented at the annual SC Urban and Community Forestry Council Conference in Spartanburg. The awards committee evaluated many worthy submissions and took two rounds of voting to reach the final selections.

Tom “Trunk” Knowles, the Assistant Director for Facilities Services for the University of South Carolina, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes an individual for their outstanding contribution to urban forestry. He has been a long time volunteer with the Council and his work on the USC grounds has included tree inventories, planting of new trees, care of mature trees, and the development of a tree selection guide for contractors working on campus projects. Most recently, the USC campus was awarded a 2005 Green Star Grand Award by Landscape Management Magazine and the Professional Grounds Management Society and also earned the designation of Arboretum by the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta.



Tom Knowles and Eddie Bernard

The Arboricultural Program in The Clemson University Landscape Services Department was awarded the Outstanding Urban Forestry Program, which recognizes a local government or organization providing exemplary leadership and vision to a comprehensive urban forestry program. With a minimal staff of 3 and the occasional student assistant, a campus inventory of



Eddie Bernard and representatives from the Arboricultural Program in The Clemson University Landscape Services Department

over 6,000 trees is maintained on the 200-acre main campus. Under Paul Minerva’s management, the department is responsible for planning, scheduling, and management of arboricultural practices such as pruning, cabling and bracing, lightning protection installation, and implementation of the latest soil management treatments with the air spade and other state-of-the art tools. After years of development, the department has gained approval from the University President for a campus-wide tree protection policy governing construction and other activities that impact campus trees.

More information on the Golden Acorn awards can be found at the Council’s website (www.scurbanforestry.org). Please begin thinking of candidates for next year’s Golden Acorn awards.

Why Plant Trees?

Jimmy Walters, Regional Urban Forester
South Carolina Forestry Commission

It's a good thing to plant a tree—everyone knows that. Not everyone appreciates just what a good thing it is, though, when a tree is placed in the landscape. The right tree, planted properly in the right place, provides environmental, economic, aesthetic and social values that are taken for granted by most people.

One of the major concerns in our towns, cities, and developing areas is storm water management. Millions are spent on concrete and steel solutions to the problem of handling excess water. It's ironic that much of the storm water problem is a result of removing one of the best storm water management tools available: trees. With their tremendous surface area, trees are able to intercept, cushion, and prolong the duration of rainfall. The natural mulch beneath a tree acts as a sponge to absorb and filter rainfall, releasing it slowly into the porous soil. Their roots hold the soil in place, while absorbing much of the water for use in the trees' life processes. Removal of trees, on the other hand, leaves impermeable surfaces where rainfall can only run off into a storm water system.

Besides protecting water and soil quality, trees are also great air cleaners. Leaves trap huge quantities of airborne particles on their surfaces and breathe in dissolved pollutants through their pores. Trees also provide valuable cooling in urban environments, reducing the air's capacity for carrying volatile organic compounds and other pollutants. Any third-grader knows that trees take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen. What is less well known is that this oxygen is left over after the tree traps, uses and stores the carbon. Trees are our most valuable "carbon sinks," holding carbon until it is eventually released by burning or decay.

It makes sense that trees are good for our economy. Trees are, after all our number one crop in South Carolina. It's a bit more difficult to quantify the value of our shade and ornamental trees. Research done at the University of Washington in recent years showed that healthy trees make a business district more attractive to shoppers, who are willing to pay a bit more for the

merchandise than in less attractive areas. Healthy trees also add to the marketability and value of real estate. An increase of from 3.5 to 6% in the market price of real estate was found in two recent studies, when healthy trees were on the site.

The environmental and economic value of trees may be taken for granted by most, but the beauty of trees is appreciated by anyone who can see them, feel their shade, or hear the wind in their foliage. Joyce Kilmer's line, "I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree" is one of our most familiar passages in American literature—for obvious reasons. Besides their intrinsic beauty, trees also make excellent screens for unsightly views, such as industrial areas, salvage yards, and surface mines.

Planting trees is a wonderful way to link generations and create bonds between people. South Carolina's official Arbor Day is observed on the first Friday in December, and is an excellent time to involve children, their parents, and senior citizens in an activity that will have lasting benefits. Birthdays and other celebrations are also great times to plant a tree to create a lasting commemoration with dividends the whole community will

enjoy for decades.

These and other benefits from tree planting can only be realized when the right tree is planted properly in the right place. A recent study showed that 93% of professionally planted trees were planted improperly. To learn about the right way to plant trees, get information from the South Carolina Forestry Commission (www.state.sc.us/forest), the National Arbor Day Foundation (www.arborday.org), the International Society of Arboriculture (www.treesaregood.com) or, of course, Clemson's Home and Garden Information Center (<http://hgic.clemson.edu>). Choosing the right tree for the site and planting it properly will ensure that the community will enjoy the environmental, economic, aesthetic and social benefits of that silent servant for decades to come.



Conway Heritage Tree Presentation

Danny Burbage, Heritage Committee Chair

This is the speech given by Danny at the Conway Presentation

The South Carolina Urban and Community Forestry Council is pleased to honor the City of Conway and its long-standing stewardship of the Wade Hampton Oak and, indeed, all of its public trees. The people of Conway have historically planted and preserved the community trees. I had such fun reading Conway's nomination which spoke of a shotgun toting Mary Beaty and her promise of "dire consequences" for any railroad personnel who might think of cutting down the Wade Hampton Oak.

I have heard it said that when the Carolinas were first settled that a squirrel could travel from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River without touching the ground; so abundant were the forests. I am sure that is an exaggeration but I suspect it is not too far from the truth. As we settled the country, we carved out places to plant crops and to homestead. Later we began to carve from the forests, places for our villages and towns. But as Carolinians did all this, they saved trees when they could and when they couldn't, dug them from the forest and planted them in the towns. Much like Mrs. Beaty did in the 1800's, other Carolinians have appreciated the benefits of community trees.

I think that is sometimes good to challenge our individual spirituality. The process of that challenge usually leads us to an understanding that makes us stronger and more committed to the values we hold important. We should also challenge our reasons for championing the roles of trees in our communities. Are they really worth the effort? What is the benefit of trees in our towns and cities?

Trees are beautiful, of course, and they allow us a connection with nature in what can be a hurried and hectic life. Trees put our communities on a more human scale and mitigate the often harsh lines of a built environment of concrete, asphalt and steel. I love the excitement of a large city. I enjoy walking in a canyon surrounded by tall buildings and traffic. I love the excitement of visiting but I don't want to live there.



Danny Burbage, members of Conway City Council and Mayor Greg Martin

But trees are more than "just another pretty face". Trees work for us and promote our good health. This tree that we honor here today, The Wade Hampton Oak, interrupts and mitigates 2000 gallons of storm water runoff a year. That is significant enough but if you couple that with the contributions made by The Wade Hampton Oak's kin, the other public trees in Conway, the impact on the community is spectacular.

The public trees trap tons of ozone and other particulate matter. When they trap these pollutants and hold them in their biomass, we don't have to breathe them. Public trees also lower energy costs.

If today was July 29 instead of November 29, we who are gathered under the canopy of this great tree would be much more comfortable than those who might be standing across the street. The Wade Hampton Oak would be absorbing water through its roots and moving it up through its massive trunk to the leaves where that water would be released in an invisible, cooling mist; another way in which trees work for us.

Trees are both beautiful and functional. They are simultaneously public art and every bit a part of the community infrastructure as streets, water lines and traffic signals.

Conway has always understood this importance and has continually honored its trees. The City has published a self-guided tour of its trees entitled "A Guide to Some of Our Oldest Citizens". I do not know of any other S.C. community who has honored their trees to this extent.

Conway has a proud history of protecting and honoring its public trees and the South Carolina Urban and community Forestry Council honors the City for that commitment and history. Conway has a long history of conservation, is a beautiful city today and with continued commitment can hope for a healthy future.



Mayor Greg Martin and Danny Burbage



From the Forestry Commission

COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANTS AWARDED

Gloria Freeman, SC Forestry Commission U&CF Grant Assistant

It is our pleasure to announce that the SC Forestry Commission's 2006 Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program is awarding 22 grants totaling over \$150,000. These competitive and matching federal grant funds are designed to assist local government with the establishment and improvement of a community forestry program. A total of 22 grant applicants requesting over \$150,000 in federal dollars were submitted from all over the state. Of those that applied, there are 16 municipalities, 2 counties, 1 educational institution, and 3 nonprofit organizations.

A five member Review Committee was appointed to give careful consideration of and competitively review and score each of the grants individually to make their recommendations for awarding the grant projects. Grant projects range from training and continuing education to tree ordinance development or revision to public tree inventories and management plans.

The SC State Forester, Bob Schowalter has approved funding for each of the applicants listed below.

Coastal Region:

Town of Mt Pleasant
Town of Summerville
Town of Port Royal
Dorchester County
Town of Bluffton
City of Aiken

Pee Dee Region:

City of Myrtle Beach
City of Conway
Florence County Parks & Rec.
City of Dillon
City of Mullins
City of North Myrtle Beach
City of Florence

Piedmont Region:

City of Forest Acres
City of Columbia
City of Greenville
City of Greenville
Hatcher Gardens
Trees Greenville
Clemson University

State-wide:

SC U&CF Council

Town of Cheraw

For more information regarding community forestry, the grant program or to request technical assistance, please contact the SC Forestry Commission Community Forestry Program Coordinator, Liz Gilland at 803-896-8864 or lgilland@forestry.state.sc.us.

Choosing the Right Tree for the Right Place

South Carolina Urban and Community Forestry Council

Latin name: <i>Aesculus pavia</i>	Texture: Coarse
Common name: Red Buckeye	Growth rate: Slow
Zones: 4-8	Light: full shade to full sun
Height & Width: 15'-20' ht x 15'-25' w	Moisture: Medium to high; well drained soil
Type: Deciduous	Soil: Moist, well drained soils, often found in high calcium soils *
Habit: Can be a single or a multi-stemmed small tree	Origin: Native to coastal portions of US states from NC to TX and from northeastern TX to the southern tip of IL.

Features: Red Buckeye is often one of the first trees to leaf out, but also one of the first to drop its leaves in the fall. Its dark green leaves emerge from large buds which have an opposite arrangement and are palmately compound with 5 (sometimes 7), 5"- 6" long serrated leaflets. Its bright red 1.5" long tubular flowers are found in upright clusters extending nearly a foot from the branch ends and are frequented by hummingbirds. The grey bark starts out smooth becoming scaly with age and branches are stout. The quarter sized, but irregularly shaped fruit mature in the fall.



Siting: This tree is naturally found in floodplains and near the borders of rivers and swamps in clay and sandy soils, but is adaptable to drier settings in the landscape. Full sun produces the best blooms and thickest canopy while the presence of shade will allow it to hold its leaves longer. Due to its adaptability, it is a native ornamental tree that could easily be used in the landscape to replace other overused exotic ornamentals and extend a design's bloom period given its early bloom time.

Care: Due to its adaptive nature, it can be grown in most locations within its range and is available in the nursery trade as 3-15 gallon specimens, and are easy to establish. Plant so that the root flare is visible and slightly above the existing grade. Following planting and applying a 3" thick layer of mulch, water the root ball daily with two gallons of water for the first two weeks, then every other day for the next 2 months, and then weekly until established. Mulch should be pulled away from the trunk(s) to allow air movement and avoid potential rotting and pest problems. Specimens over 5' tall may require staking for the first year due to the weight of the stout branches. When being staked, care should be taken to provide a wide strap where in contact with the tree to avoid bark damage and potential girdling. The staking should be loose enough to allow the tree to sway some in a breeze so that it can continue to build trunk taper and strength against future wind conditions.

Pests: Susceptible to leaf blotch common to all buckeye and horse chestnut species, but otherwise is relatively pest free.

Contact the SC Urban and Community Forestry Council at www.scurbanforestry.org for membership and additional information.

* Soil ph is determined using a professional soil test. Contact your Clemson University County Extension service for assistance www.clemson.edu/extension/. Click on "local offices".

Tree selected from the Urban Tree Species Guide: *Choosing the Right Tree for the Right Place*.

Author: Eddie Bernard, RLA, Town of Mount Pleasant Planning Department

Reviewers: Liz Gilland, SC Forestry Commission and Kathryn Basha, SC U&CF Council



PO Box 21707
Columbia, SC 29221

Mark Your Calendar

February 8–9, 2007

SC Nursery & Landscape Association Annual Conference and Trade Show, Myrtle Beach Convention Center, Myrtle Beach. For more information go to www.scnla.com

May 21–22, 2007

Storms Over the Urban Forest, Zoo Atlanta, Coca-Cola World Studio, Atlanta Georgia

Visit www.scurbanforestry.org for more information



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It is not much for its beauty that makes a claim upon men's hearts, as for that subtle something, that quality of air that emanates from old trees, that so wonderfully changes and renews a weary spirit.

Robert Louis Stevenson
(1850 - 1894)